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23 March 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA : Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM : Cord Meyer, Jr.
SA/DDCI

SUBJECT : Threat to Detonate a Nuclear Bomb in
Washington, D.C.

1. For your information, I am forwarding to you as Attachment A a memorandum from the Director of Security summarizing the FBI's initial assessment of a threat to detonate a nuclear bomb in Washington, D.C. Attachment B is the actual text of the threat received by the FBI and Attachment C is the judgment of Doctor [] a psychiatrist in our Office of Medical Services who specializes in advising on how to handle terrorist threats.

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2. At this time there seems to be general agreement that the threat is a hoax.

FBI Review
Completed

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[]
Cord Meyer, Jr.

Attachments: As stated

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23 March 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Administration

FROM: Robert W. Gambino
Director of Security

SUBJECT: Threat to Detonate Nuclear Bomb in
Washington, D. C.

1. On 23 March 1977 I spoke to Mr. Marty Heffren of the Federal Bureau of Investigation concerning the FBI's analysis of the attached cable.

2. Mr. Heffren advised that the attached cable is the second threat received by the Bureau concerning a nuclear device buried in Washington, D. C. On Friday, 18 March 1977 the Associated Press in New York City passed to the New York Field Office of the Bureau a copy of a similar letter. The FBI is making a laboratory analysis of both letters. In addition, the FBI has been in touch with ERDA and has been advised that the letter lacks technical information which precludes ERDA from making any technical judgment. The FBI has consulted with [redacted] of Syracuse University, who suggests that the letter is a hoax being perpetrated by an activist group, probably middle class, whose chief intent is to embarrass the United States. It is [redacted] opinion that the group is seeking publicity and failing to get publicity, will in all probability dispatch additional letters.

[redacted]

4. The Bureau's assessment at this time is that the sender of the letter is looking for publicity; that the threat is a hoax, that the lack of information precludes the Bureau from recommending Nuclear Emergency Search Team Flights and the FBI will do nothing at this time except to complete the laboratory analysis of the letters.

FBI Review
Completed

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5. Dr. [] of the Office of Medical Services,
has seen the attached cable and is of the opinion that the
threat is not a credible one. He believes it is a hoax
being perpetrated by one person or a small number of persons.
Dr. [] will provide you with a written analysis.

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[]
Robert W. Gambino

Attachment

.cc: SA/DDCI (Mr. Cord Meyer)

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FM DIRECTOR, FBI

TO RUEBWJA/ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, CRIMINAL DIV.

ATTN: INTERNAL SECURITY SECTION

ATTN: GENERAL LINES SECTION

RUEHSE/U.S. SECRET SERVICE (PID)

RUEAIIA/DIRECTOR, CIA

RUEHC/SECRETARY OF STATE

ATTN: AMBASSADOR KECK

RUEATRS/DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY

ATTN: BUREAU OF ALCOHOL TOBACCO & FIREARMS

ZEN/ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

RUEADWW/WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

RUEKJCS/DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

BT

UNCLAS

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS; THREAT TO POSSIBLY DETONATE ALLEGED NUCLEAR

BOMB, BURIED IN WASHINGTON, D.C., RECEIVED MARCH 21, 1977, BY MAIL;

EXTORTION - BOMB THREAT.

FBI Review
Completed

PAGE TWO DE RUEHFB #0108 UNCLAS

FBI WASHINGTON FIELD ON MARCH 21, 1977, ADVISED:

ON MARCH 21, 1977, THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (FBI), 12TH AND PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, WASHINGTON, D.C. (WDC), RECEIVED A LETTER POSTMARKED "WASHINGTON, D.C., 200, 1 P.M." ON MARCH 17, 1977, STATING THAT UNLESS SIX DEMANDS ARE MET, AN UNNAMED GROUP WOULD DESTROY THE CITY.

THE TEXT OF THE MESSAGE IS AS FOLLOWS:

"TO THE ECONOMIC DICTATORS OF THE UNITED STATES:

"THE DAY YOU HAVE FEARED HAS ARRIVED---YOUR OWN WEAPONS OF TERROR AND DESTRUCTION ARE GOING TO BE USED AGAINST YOU--- WE PRESENTLY HAVE A SMALL, ARMED, AND READY TO FIRE NUCLEAR BOMB BURIED IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA UNLESS THE ACCOMPANYING DEMANDS ARE PROMPTLY PUBLICIZED AND MET, WE WILL DESTROY THIS CITY.

"WE ARE NOT KNOWN TO YOU---WE ARE NOT FANATICAL TERRORISTS---WE RECOGNIZE THE LAW THAT YOU LIVE BY---THAT POLITICAL POWER IS DEPENDENT ON WEAPONRY---WE INTEND TO USE THE POWER WE HAVE NOW ACQUIRED TO THE UTMOST.

"THE POPULATION OF WASHINGTON NEED NOT FEAR FOR THEIR LIVES---WE HAVE NO INTENTION TO HARM INNOCENT CITIZENS---

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN FIVE DAYS WARNING THROUGH
THE PRESS.

"DO NOT COURT DISASTER BY TAKING THIS WARNING LIGHTLY---
WE WILL NOT HESITATE TO CARRY OUT THIS THREAT---THE DESTRUCTION
OF A SINGLE AMERICAN CITY IS NOTHING COMPARED TO THE SYSTEMATIC
MISERY AND DESTRUCTION WHICH THIS SYSTEM BRINGS DAILY TO THE
PEOPLES OF SOUTHEAST ASIA, AFRICA, SOUTH AMERICA, AND TO THE
BLACKS, LATIN AMERICANS, AND POOR WORKERS OF ALL RACES IN
THIS COUNTRY. WE CONSIDER THIS A MORAL THREAT TO END A FAR
GREATER DISORDER IN THE WORLD.

"DO NOT FORCE US TO MAKE A DREAFFUL DEMONSTRATION OF OUR
SERIOUS INTENT---SOME WOULD SURELY DIE---PROPERTY LOSS WOULD
BE GREAT---AND THE IMPACT OF RADIOACTIVITY ON THE EASTERN
COAST WOULD BE IMMENSE. SHOULD WE BE FORCED TO DO SO,
WE HAVE ANOTHER DEVICE CONSTRUCTED WHICH CAN BE ASSEMBLED
IN ANY OTHER AMERICAN CITY---AND WE HAVE ENOUGH PLUTONIUM
STORED TO REPEAT THIS PROCESS.

"IF THESE DEMANDS ARE NOT PUBLICIZED WITHIN ONE WEEK
(BY WED MAR 23) OR IF CONCRETE STEPS TO IMPLEMENT THEM ARE
NOT PUBLICIZED WITHIN ONE MONTH (APRIL 16) YOU WILL RECEIVE

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THEREAFTER YOUR FIVE DAYS NOTICE OF THE DESTRUCTION.

"1. ALL FAMILIES IN THE U.S. OWNING OR CONTROLLING MORE THAN \$100,000 IN CAPITAL SHALL BE DIVESTED OF THEIR HOLDINGS. IT IS IMMORAL FOR A SINGLE FAMILY, SUCH AS THE ROCKEFELLERS, TO OWN AND CONTROL MORE WEALTH THAN ALL THE BLACKS IN AMERICA PUT TOGETHER. WE HOLD THIS TO BE THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT CAUSE OF POVERTY IN AMERICA AND THE WORLD.

"2. ALL MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS WITH HEADQUARTERS IN THE US SHALL BE REORGANIZED TO BE DIRECTED BY BOARDS CHOSEN FROM THE WORKERS OF THOSE CORPORATIONS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC IN AREAS OF THE WORLD THEY AFFECT.

"3 ALL NATIONAL MEDIA---NEWSPAPER, MAGAZINES, TELEVISION, AND RADIO---SHALL BE REORGANIZED ON THE SAME BASIS.

"4. THE TRILATERAL COUNCIL SHALL BE IMMEDIATELY DISBANDED--- SOME SUITABLE ALTERNATIVE ORGANIZATION SHALL BE SET UP FROM THE GENERAL POPULATION TO DETERMINE AMERICA'S ECONOMIC, MILITARY, AND POLITICAL POLICIES. THIS "SECRET GOVERNMENT" OF THE US, COMPOSED OF CORPORATE, MILITARY, AND GOVERNMENT LEADERS HAS PROVEN ITS INABILITY TO WORK IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD.

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"5. RELEASE OF ALL AMERICAN POLITICAL PRISONERS, AND PAROLE REVIEW FOR ALL BLACKS AND MINORITIES HELD FOR INORDINATELY LONG TERMS IN JAILS. PRESIDENT CARTER MUST STOP HIS HYPOCRITICAL CHARADE OF "HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISM."

"6. THIS NOTICE AND THESE DEMANDS SHALL BE PRINTED AND STATED VERBATIM IN THE MEDIA OF THE US.

" THE MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE DEMANDS ARE NEGOTIABLE, BUT THE SUBSTANCE OF THEM IS NOT.

"WE MUST STATE THAT WE WORK IN THE INTERESTS OF NO FOREIGN POWER. WE RECOGNIZE THE NECESSITY FOR A BALANCE OF POWER IN THE WORLD, BUT IT MUST BE CONTROLLED BY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, AND NOT BY GREED CORRUPTED MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS.

"WE HAVE SERIOUSLY ANTICIPATED THAT YOU WILL FORCE US INTO A SHOWDOWN OF FORCE IN THIS MATTER. LET US REITERATE THAT WE WILL NOT HESITATE TO DESTROY THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE CIA, THE FBI, THE PENTAGON, AND THE WASHINGTON OFFICES OF THE MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS IN A SINGLE BLOW. THESE PEOPLE HAVE DECLARED WAR AGAINST THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD, AND WE WILL FIGHT THEM WITH ALL OUR STRENGTH. WE HOPE YOU WILL DISSAPPOINT THESE EXPECTATIONS BY PROMPT

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PUBLICATION OF THESE DEMANDS AND AN OPEN DISCUSSION WITH
THE PUBLIC OF THIS COUNTRY ABOUT THEIR IMPLEMENTATION.

"COPIES TO: MR. CARTER; FBI; CIA; NEW YORK TIMES;
WASHINGTON POST; JACK ANDERSON; LONDON OBSERVER; LONDON
TIMES; REUTERS NEWS AGENCY; UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL;
OTHER MEMBERS OF THE PRESS."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, NEW YORK, NEW YORK, RECEIVED A
SIMILAR LETTER ON MARCH 18, 1977, WHICH WAS TURNED OVER TO THE
FBI, NEW YORK CITY, AND HAS BEEN TRANSMITTED TO THE FBI
LABORATORY FOR EXAMINATION.

BT

#0108

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23 March 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Robert W. Gambino
Director of Security

FROM :
Chairman, Office of Medical Services
Task Force on Counterterrorism

VIA : Mr. Cord Meyer
Special Assistant/Deputy Director of
Central Intelligence(SA/DDCI)

SUBJECT : Nuclear Threat to Washington, D.C.

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1. As I indicated to you in our telephone conversation of today, Mr. Cord Meyer, SA/DDCI showed me this morning a communication threatening nuclear destruction of Washington, D.C. unless certain demands are met. My tentative assessment is that it is a hoax.

2. The message appears to be written by one individual or a small group. The demands and conditions are rather primitive; clearly the demands cannot be met, and the deadlines are very loose. Although negotiations are referred to, no means for implementing them are spelled out. There are certain catch words such as "multinational corporation" and "secret government" which lead me to believe that this threat was inspired by previous events and that the perpetrator is seeking attention in order to relieve pent-up frustrations.

No FBI equities.

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